MR. CHAIRMAN: I will suggest one thing. We are going to adjourn for Saturday and Sunday. So far as the seating is concerned, under the parameters,...

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Then, let us adjourn till Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Seating does not make any difference. Will you please conclude, Mr. Goswami? *(Interruptions)*. The discussion on this is concluded. Now, Papers to be laid on Table.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: * Sir, may I say that the Attorney-General has no authority to decide about our political status? Therefore, we are walking out from the House.

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber).

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

.World Bank Aid to India

*1. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has been approached to increase aid to India under their scheme to respond positive ly for such aid to countries hit by the recent Gulf crisis;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is World Bank's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The World Bank has proposed the following schemes to assist the countries hit by the recent Gulf crisis.

(i) Special emergency assistance, including the resettlement of displaced workers

(ii) strengthening adjustment pro-grammes

(iii) higher cost sharing arrangements to accelerate disbursements

(iv) extension of IDA concessional assistance to a number of lower middle income countries which are currently IBRD borrowers.

In respect of India, the World Bank has agreed to enhance the share of financing of projects as a temporary measure. So far they have agreed for enhanced cost sharing in 61 projects. The total number of World Bank projects is 95. This dispensation would be valid for a period from September 1, 1990 to December 31 1991 at the prevailing terms and conditions.

Production at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

*2. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the quantum of steel produced by the Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that production has come to a halt at this Plant due to lack of supply of raw materials; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to resume full production at the Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI ASHOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) Vishakhapatnam Steel Project (VSP) did not produce any steel during the last three years as it was then under construction stage. The first major production unit of Blast Furnace was commissioned on 28th March, 1990. The Steel Melting facilities were commissioned, in stages, during September-November, 1990. During the current year, upto November, 1990, VSP have produced 3.12 lakh tonnes of pig iron and 16,000 tonnes of reliable steel.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The production at the Plant has not come to a halt though the stock situation of raw material remained critical on few occassions.

• India's External Debt

*3. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's external debt has increased manifold during the current year;

(b) if so what is the present position of such debt indicating the principal amount and the interest to be paid thereon; and

(c) what are the reasons for such enprmous increase in external debt?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The data on External Debt for the current year will be available only at the end of the financial year. India's outstanding External Debt as on March 31, 1990 was Rs. 79982 crores. This was 15 percent higher than the figure of Rs. 69361 crores as on March 31, 1989. In dollar terms the increase in external debt in 1989-90 was about 6 percent. Repayment of principal and interest in 1989-90 amounted to Rs. " 4808 crores and Rs. 3548 crores respectively.

Indo-Japanese Bilateral Trade Talks

*4. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Japanese bilateral trade talks were held at New Delhi on the 26th November, 1990; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the discussion held and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF , THE MINISTRY OF' LAW AND"' JUSTICE (DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY): (a) Indo-Japan bilateral trade talks were held at New Delhi on November 25-27, 1990. Commerce Secretary led the Indian delegation and Japanese delegation was led by their Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.

(b) The discussions focussed on International Economy, World Trading System and Bilateral Commercial Relations. The two sides exchanged. view on recent developments in the World economy. They expressed satisfaction on the steady growth of bilateral trade, acknowledged potential for further expension of trade and descus-sed ways and means to achieve this expansion.